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HERE COMES ... THE 30TH WEDDING FAIR, PG 4

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Celebrity Buzz

ScarJo just veggin' out pg 16

'Persecution,' says Blackmore

Alleged polygamist claims charges are 'grandstanding' before election

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One of the men facing polygamy charges in Bountiful said Thursday he's being persecuted for his religion.

Winston Blackmore, who allegedly has more than 20 wives, told reporters in Creston that he was being charged for political reasons.

He said the timing of the charges was intended to help the current B.C. government "grandstand" ahead of this spring's provincial election.

"Persecution has always been about politics," Blackmore said. "This is not about polygamy."

Polygamy is illegal in Canada, a ban that Blackmore claims violates his religious freedom guaranteed by Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Nancy Mereska, co-ordinator of Stop Polygamy in Canada, said she "absolutely rejects" Blackmore's claim.

"Polygamy is not about religion," she said. "It's about the power of men over women and children."

She added that Part 1 of the Charter says the rights listed are subject to the laws of Canada. "They can have whatever religious belief they want, but when they practise a belief that is against the law, they are committing a crime."

Mereska said she believes that more charges are coming.

"Women who have escaped polygamist societies and the young men who were kicked out to make the ratio of multiple women for every man work are going to start contacting authorities now that the leaders have been charged," Mereska said. "I can see this going to the Supreme Court of Canada in about seven years, and I'm confident the Supreme Court is going to uphold our laws against polygamy."

The other man facing polygamy charges is James Oler, the leader of a rival faction in Bountiful who allegedly has two wives.

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Chilliwack in state of emergency after mudslides, floods

WEATHER A state of emergency was called in Chilliwack on Thursday, after rains and snowmelt caused massive flooding and mudslides, closing roads and seriously damaging as many as 40 homes.

One woman was pulled to safety by her father after a mudslide swept through the home and into the basement where she was sleeping. She said she awoke under a deluge of mud and thought she was drowning.

The torrent of water and mud also washed away Nixon Road, cutting off access to hundreds of people, and 30 families have been evacuated from their homes in Greendale.

The province said it will provide financial assistance for 80 per cent of damages up to $300,000 for claims filed around the Lower Mainland. Meanwhile, crews worked round the clock to deal with drainage problems that were threatening to flood the city's downtown core.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Memorial **Honour guard for woman firefighter**

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A member of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service's honour guard carries the hat of Cindy Kampmeinert from the First Baptist Church on Thursday. Kampmeinert was killed in December in a motorcycle crash in India. Story, page 3

Most whites don't react to racism: Study

RESEARCH Most white people say they would react strongly to racism, but don't do anything when they actually witness prejudice, Canadian and U.S. researchers said Thursday.

They said white college students who heard someone make racist remarks in a study failed to confront that person, and this may be part of what perpetuates racism.

"People do not think of themselves as prejudiced, and they predict that they would be very upset by a racist act and would take action," said Kerry Kawakami, a psychology professor at York University in Toronto whose study appears in the journal Science.

"However, we found that their responses are much more muted than they expect when they are actually faced with an overtly racist comment," Kawakami said in a statement.

For the study, the researchers evaluated 120 white students in Canada who were exposed to racism while waiting for what they thought was the real experiment to begin.

A white student posed as a study participant and made a racist comment about a black participant when he briefly left the room. The remarks ranged from moderate to extreme racial slurs. When the black student returned, the actual participants were asked to choose partners for a subsequent exercise.

They found 63 per cent of study participants chose the person who made the racist comment as a partner.

REUTERS

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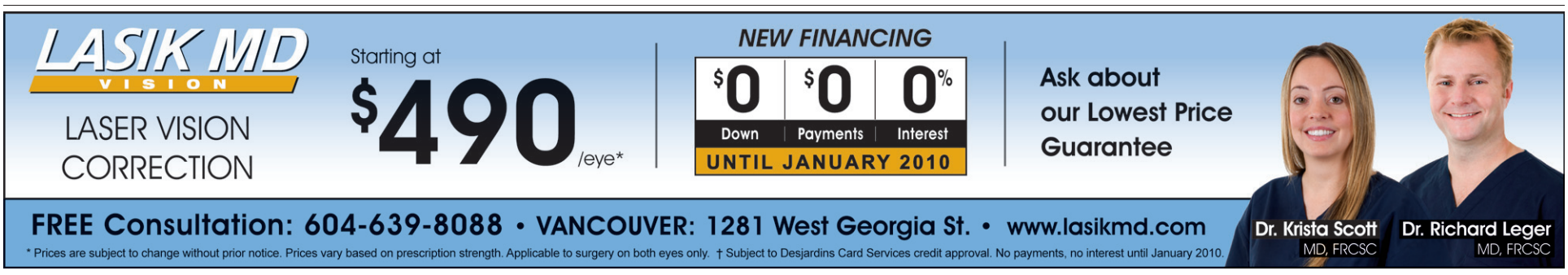

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Security beefed up at resort

Security at the Big White ski resort near Kelowna has been improved after several sexual assaults in recent weeks. The most recent occurred Wednesday when a sleeping woman was groped. The assailant entered her condominium through an unlocked door. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Speed monitored on forest roads

The Ministry of Forests will begin using radar guns to monitor and enforce speeding on provincial forest service roads. The ministry's six radar guns will be used by compliance and enforcement officers after being trained by the RCMP.

METRO VANCOUVER

New landlord forcing elderly's pets out, building tenants say

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Around a half dozen residents of a West End highrise, many of whom are elderly, say they're being forced to get rid of their pets or move in the latest string of evictions to increase rents.

Andrew Simmons, who has lived at Emerald Terrace with his three cats for seven years, said yesterday the building was pet-friendly until Hollyburn Group bought the property last year.

"We (tenants) made sure we had permission to have pets before we moved in," he said.

"Hollyburn has nothing to gain by us getting rid of our cats … (They're) part of our family. Especially (for) the older people, their primary companion, and it brings them comfort."

One woman facing eviction, Mary Milligan, is 81 years old and has Parkinson's disease and osteoarthritis.

Pat Maher, who has lived in the building for 17 years, said she had written permission for her cat.

"I had a total panic attack, and then anger, and now it's kind of both," she said.

"I get this feeling that the bottom of my stomach is dropping out," added June MacGregor, a 79-year-old tenant.

Simmons said the eviction notices, which were handed out before Christmas, are for Feb. 28, but the residents have an arbitration hearing for Jan. 16.

"We are not against landlords making money. What we are against are the few landlords that will look for any kind of loophole or technicality to make their bottom line bigger."

Spencer Herbert, NDP MLA for Vancouver-Burrard, said he's calling for the government to step in and protect vulnerable tenants.

"I think they're using this cat policy as a sneaky way to force long-term tenants out," Herbert said. "It's just cruel (and) it really speaks to how greed can pervert what would normally be seen as morally repugnant."

He said companies like Hollyburn are likely banking on the fact that many people will give up or be too tired to fight to keep their homes.

"But these seniors … have to fight because they have no other choice."

Calls to Hollyburn Group weren't returned by press time.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

NDP MLA Spencer Herbert outside Emerald Terrace apartments on Thursday. Tenants in the building are facing eviction if they don't give up their pets by next month, tenants say.

News in brief

INJURY Another avalanche hit Whistler Mountain on Thursday, leaving the operator of a snow-grooming machine slightly injured, cknw.com reports.

IDENTITY Police have identified the victims of a recent motorbike accident in Delta. The 19-year-old driver, Scott MacFarlane, died in the accident Tuesday. Benjamin Wright, 13, is in critical condition in hospital.

BACK UP Peter Simpson with the Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association said some construction projects are up to three weeks behind schedule after a month of heavy snow and rain brought work to a standstill. METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Prominent Canadians condemn Ottawa's stance on the Gaza conflict at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Michael Ignatieff vows low- and middle-income tax cuts to boost the economy at **metronews.ca/canada**

Popular music fest cancelled

The Pemberton Festival has been cancelled for 2009, but organizers of the massive music event remain optimistic that it will return in 2010.

In a brief statement Thursday, a spokesperson for Live Nation said "the necessary permits were approved too late in the year for us to effectively book talent.

"We are moving forward and focusing on 2010."

Coldplay, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Nine Inch Nails, Jay-Z and The Tragically Hip headlined the three-day festival that drew more than 40,000 fans to the Pemberton Valley north of Whistler in July.

The 2008 event featured more than 120 artists.

JEFF HODSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

ROB MCMAHON/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Wayne Coyne of the Flaming Lips gets up close to the crowd at last year's inaugural Pemberton Festival while inside a see-through beach ball.

Social factors can impact health: Study

STUDY Heart disease patients living in poorer areas of B.C. are twice as likely to die from chronic diseases, particularly cancer, than those living in more affluent areas, according to a new UBC study.

"Even in a country with universal health-care services, a neighbourhood's socio-economic status can have a dramatic impact on life expectancy for patients with heart disease," said study co-author Claire Heslop, an MD/PhD student in the University of British Columbia's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

This trend may reflect the higher overall stress experienced by patients in low socio-economic areas.

The study looked at 485 heart disease patients over a 13-year period.

METRO VANCOUVER

Mayor will still disclose loan info

DETAILS Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson said he still plans to make public details of the Olympic Village loan, even though his campaign promise to do so by Jan. 8 has passed.

On Thursday, he told CBC News that council is within a couple of days of having that public meeting at city hall.

METRO VANCOUVER

RCMP clear eight in EnCana gas-plant attacks

RCMP have cleared eight people identified as potential suspects in attacks on natural gas facilities in northern British Columbia, a spokesman said Thursday.

Police took the unusual step last month of releasing the photographs of the eight people, whose names they did not know, but who had used a Dawson Creek post office the same day that letters believed linked to the attacks were mailed.

> **"There is a core of people in the community who we believe have information and are not co-operating with investigators."**
> Sgt. Tim Shields

The letters sent to media in October warned EnCana Corp. and other energy companies to leave the area. Three Encana-owned facilities were damaged by bombs in October and a fourth Sunday.

"We have identified all eight people and they are no longer part of the investigation," said Sgt. Tim Shields, adding that the search did produce more leads for investigators to follow.

Shields acknowledged that investigators were still running into resistance from some residents of the area.

"There is a core of people in the community who we believe have information and are not co-operating with investigators," Shields said.

Investigators have said they believe the attacks are the work of at least one local resident.

There have been no injuries in the incidents, but two of the explosions caused small gas leaks.

REUTERS

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Idling cars attract thieves, RCMP cautions
The RCMP are warning people to watch for thieves if they are leaving their cars running unattended to warm up. Sixteen cars, left idling while their owners were inside their homes, have been stolen in Surrey since temperatures plunged in November. METRO VANCOUVER

City firefighters honour colleague, friend

JEFF HODSON
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About a thousand firefighters lined Burrard Street at noon Thursday to bid farewell to Cindy Kampmeinert, one of only seven women members of Vancouver's fire department.

Kampmeinert, 41, died Dec. 18, five days after being struck by a bus while motorcycling in Goa on India's west coast.

Alana Holdgate, wife of Vancouver Fire Chief Ray Holdgate, met Kampmeinert when she was still a child.

She had big brown eyes and a "smile from ear to ear that warmed your heart," Holdgate said.

Friends described "Big Cins" as a risk-taker who was outgoing and caring ,and who handled situations with her own style. Alana Holdgate called her the "spice in our stew."

On Dec. 13, an English tourist found Kampmeinert injured on the side of the road next to her wrecked motorcycle and transported her to four hospitals before she was finally admitted.

The tourist, 22-year-old Jessica Reese, attended the funeral at First Baptist Church. She received a lengthy standing ovation and was thanked by the chaplain of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.

Kampmeinert immigrated to Canada with her family in 1972, but moved back to Holland as a young adult to study carpentry. She became a firefighter in 2000 and was the only woman in the organization's honour guard.

The honour guard led the funeral procession and carried Kampmeinert's hat from the church to the waiting hearse. It marched with a "blank file," an empty space where Kampmeinert would have been.

JEFF HODSON / METRO VANCOUVER

A fire engine draped in black drives down Burrard Street on Thursday, past about a thousand firefighters following a memorial for firefighter Cindy Kampmeinert, who died Dec. 18 in India.

TransLink gets $186.4M boost

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TransLink will purchase a fleet of new buses and almost 40 new SkyTrain cars to replace and expand its existing fleet, thanks to funding from the federal gas tax, the local transit authority announced on Thursday.

The funding, amounting to $186.4 million over two years, will go toward the purchase of 146 conventional buses, 34 articulated trolleys, 38 SkyTrain cars, 23 community shuttles, 55 HandyDART vehicles and one SeaBus.

The gas-tax fund will also provide $10 million toward the $54-million expansion of the SkyTrain Operations and Maintenance Centre.

Fuelling transit

- The Gas Tax Revenue Fund was established in 2005 and in its first three years provided TransLink with $122.7 million.

$50 million will go toward the creation of a $165-million transportation training centre in Maple Ridge.

News in brief

FERRY The family of Shirley Rosette, one of two people who died when the ferry the Queen of the North sank in 2006, have settled its legal action against B.C. Ferries. A lawsuit filed by the family of the other victim, Gerald Foisy, is ongoing.

THEFT Police in North Vancouver caught a prolific shoplifter on Thursday with, among other things, stolen razor blades. Officers in an unmarked police car saw a Shoppers Drug Mart employee chasing a man near Lonsdale. They caught the fleeing man, who had allegedly stolen $600 worth of products.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

B.C. to lose 40,000 jobs: Economist

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The chief economist of B.C.'s Central 1 Credit Union expects employment in B.C. to drop two per cent in 2009, a decline of about 40,000 jobs as the world's economic turmoil continues.

Jobs in construction and retail trades will be the hardest hit, Helmut Pastrick said Thursday.

"The downturn in the housing market is leading to a sharp fall in housing construction this year," Pastrick said.

"We're seeing some slowdown in non-residential construction that's already begun to play out."

"Fortunately in 2010 ... we have the Winter Olympics that may provide a nice boost, albeit temporary."
Helmut Pastrick

Other job loses will be broad-based, he said, and affect most private-sector industries.

Public-sector and government-funded jobs in fields like health care and education should hold strong and may even post some gains.

Statistics Canada releases its monthly labour force survey Friday. Job losses in December are expected to be between 20,000 and 50,000 across the country. In November, Canada had 71,000 net job losses.

This year, Pastrick said he expects a "substantial increase in unemployment" and anticipates B.C.'s unemployment rate rising to seven per cent, up from 4.9 per cent in November. He expects things will turn around — probably —by 2010.

"It depends on the global economic recession, how soon it ends and the strength of the recovery. Fortunately in 2010 … we have the Winter Olympics that may provide a nice boost, albeit temporary."

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City couple grace wedding magazine

Emily Carlson and Devin Roch became the first Vancouver couple to have their wedding featured in wedding style magazine Grace Ormonde this month. Megan Nelson designed their black and white fondant cake, which also made the magazine. METRO VANCOUVER

Edible works of art

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A cupcake wedding cake by Megan Nelson.

It takes Megan Nelson three days to create a wedding cake, and only half an hour for guests to eat it.

But Nelson, who owns Cakes By Meg and will be at Vancouver's 30th annual Wedding Fair this weekend, said the cake is more than just dessert — it should be a piece of art.

"The cake should stand out and reflect the couple," Nelson said, adding that this year bold colours, sparkle and graphic textures are all the rage.

She said many couples are also opting for cupcakes — stacked to look like a tiered cake — which can be mixed and matched with different flavours and icing colours.

"They're a little less expensive, you can make them fun, and people can just come up and grab one."

Another trend, Nelson said, is to use small wedding cakes as centrepieces.

Fruit butter creams, like passionfruit, strawberry and raspberry, are also a popular alternative to vanilla or chocolate.

The 30th annual Wedding Fair, which runs Saturday and Sunday at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, is expected to attract 7,000 to 10,000 visitors.

More than 150 vendors will be showcasing the latest trends in makeup, honeymoon destinations, décor, and health and beauty products.

There will also be representatives from fitness boot camps, cosmetic dentistry offices and portable toilet companies.

For more information, visit weddingfair.ca.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Foundation Skills Assessment:

What **parents** need to **know**

Foundation Skills Assessment testing doesn't help students learn or teachers teach. Instead, FSA results are used by the Fraser Institute for American-style ranking of schools that only erodes confidence in public education.

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A message from BC's teachers

To find out more about FSAs, talk to your child's teacher or visit bctf.ca

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Model Danella Abdulahad shows one of the latest wedding dress trends — a mermaid dress — in Vancouver yesterday.

Dresses for your day: 'Elegant and sexy'

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Fitness boot camps might be getting more business than usual this wedding season given the hot new style for gowns — sleek, slim and ultra form-fitting.

Samira Astifo, owner of Sposa Wedding World in New Westminster and White Rock, said last season's trend of voluminous gathered skirts has been replaced with high mermaid and trumpet skirts.

"There are fewer A-lines and more fitted dresses that are very elegant and sexy," Astifo said. "Lots of lace, strapless (dresses) and empire waists."

Astifo said dresses this year tend to be very detailed, and are balanced out with simple accessories and jewelry. Some brides are wearing flowers in their hair in lieu of veils.

"Uneven diagonal ruching and patterns (are also popular)," said Astifo. "It's very slimming and doesn't emphasize the hips."

Starting early

- Order your wedding dress eight months to one year ahead of time, as they usually take at least six months to be made.

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Canadian army seeks bullets for Soviet-made guns
The military is looking for more than two million rounds of ammunition for Soviet guns, a purchase experts say appears destined for the weapons of Afghan soldiers. TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

5

Canada

Harper back to being upbeat on economy

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was less gloomy about the economy in an interview released Thursday, saying Canada was in a strong economic position compared with others and should be able to exit the recession relatively quickly.

The comments to Maclean's magazine were noticeably more cheerful than those he made in an interview in mid-December, when he said he was very worried about the economy and speculated about the possibility of a depression.

Harper, who as recently as mid-October said he had a plan to avoid recession, now concedes there is no chance Canada can escape the global economic crisis. Ottawa has already made clear it will run budget deficits for the next few years.

The minority Conservative government will unveil a budget on Jan. 27 and Harper has said it will include a stimulus plan that could be worth as much as $30 billion.

"The underlying reality is that Canada enters this recession in a pretty strong position compared to most western industrialized countries," he told Maclean's. REUTERS

Flaherty says deficit to be 'substantial'

• Canada will run a "substantial" budget deficit in the fiscal year starting on April 1, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Thursday, citing planned stimulus measures to respond to the world economic downturn.

"Canada has certain needs and Canadians have certain needs in this extraordinary time of global recession. To fulfill those needs, we are going to have to run a substantial deficit, which we will do," Flaherty told constituents in his riding of Whitby-Oshawa, near Toronto.

Ottawa **Striking transit workers reject offer**

TRACEY TONG/METRO CANADA

Ottawa residents showed their support as union members arrived Thursday at the Ottawa Civic Centre to vote on the city's latest contract offer. The striking workers voted 64.4 per cent against the city's proposal. The vote took place after Rona Ambrose, federal minister of labour, ordered the union to allow it.

Oil companies not afraid of lawsuits

ENVIRONMENT Canadian oilsands producers, under fire from environmental critics, do not fear increasing legal challenges to their operations while they try to polish their public image, executives said Thursday.

The group Ecojustice took the first step to convince a judge to lay charges against Syncrude Canada Ltd. for the deaths of 500 ducks last year in Alberta. REUTERS

News in brief

MANITOBA A man has won a five-year legal battle against the Manitoba government with a landmark court ruling on Métis hunting rights. Provincial court Judge John Coombs ruled Thursday that Will Goodon, charged with hunting without a licence, was within his rights to shoot the rinneck duck in 2004, as the hunting area fell within traditional Métis hunting grounds.

PUNTLAND Adam Esse of Mississauga, Ont., lost his bid Thursday to become president of Puntland, the area of Somalia that has become the staging ground for pirates.

OTTAWA Four men had heart attacks while shovelling snow Thursday, CBC News Online reports. Ottawa paramedics said they were called to help a 61-year-old, a 45-year-old, a 72-year-old and a 62-year-old, all of whom experienced chest pains while shovelling snow. A storm had dropped about 15 centimetres of snow on the city the day before. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Russia eyes restoration of gas supply to Europe

Russia's state-controlled gas monopoly said yesterday it would restore supplies to Europe through Ukraine, cut off after a dispute between Moscow and Kiev, as soon as international monitors are in place. The gas cutoffs have left hundreds of thousands of people in the Balkans without gas, forced factories to shut down and disrupted deliveries as far west as France and Germany. REUTERS

World/Business

Obama pushes stimulus

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama warned Thursday the U.S. economy could stay mired in recession for years without bold action, and he urged lawmakers to work day and night to pass a massive stimulus plan.

Obama, who takes office Jan. 20, promised to set a new economic course and to quickly toughen the financial regulatory system.

Barack Obama

"I don't believe it's too late to change course, but it will be if we don't take dramatic action as soon as possible," Obama said at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

"If nothing is done, this recession could linger for years. The unemployment rate could reach double digits."

But he gave few new details about the package of tax cuts and public-works spending likely to cost $800 billion US or more.

Obama is seeking approval by mid-February of the stimulus package he is crafting with the Democratic-led Congress. In addition, Obama urged further measures to shore up confidence in the financial system and restore smooth functioning of the frozen credit markets. REUTERS

UN council passes resolution for Gaza ceasefire

MIDDLE EAST The U.N. Security Council on Thursday called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza that Arab nations hope will put an end to Israel's 13-day offensive, but the U.S. abstained.

The resolution "calls for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza." It also called for arrangements to prevent arms smuggling to Palestinian militants and reopen border crossings, and for distribution of aid in Gaza, where more than 750 Palestinians have died.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised the resolution and said she abstained only because the United States first wanted to see the outcome of an Egyptian mediation effort. REUTERS

Jordan **The next generation**

MAJED JABER / REUTERS

Jordanian children hold toy guns as they shout anti-Israel slogans during a protest in Amman on Thursday against Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip. Palestinians faced even grimmer conditions Thursday after a UN aid agency halted work, saying its staff were at risk from Israeli forces fighting Hamas militants, after two drivers were killed.

Business

Bank deposits rise as economy heads south

ECONOMY Canadians are hunkering down and saving more money, sparking a swell in deposits, said bank executives at an industry conference in Toronto on Thursday.

> **"When you get unrest in the marketplace, money goes to safe havens."**
> Chris Hodgson

Bank of Montreal has already boosted its share of deposits and predicts that consumers will be more inclined to save than borrow this year.

The Bank of Nova Scotia is also reporting gains in personal deposits.

"When you get unrest in the marketplace, money goes to safe havens," said Chris Hodgson, head of domestic banking.

GICs and high-interest savings accounts are proving popular and more growth is expected as Canadians flock to the new tax-free savings accounts.

But as deposit levels increase, banks are bracing for even slower demand for residential mortgages because of the souring economy. The growth in deposits, however, is good news for banks, as a relatively cheap source of capital. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Retailers brace for fallout

RETAIL While U.S. retailers reported what some analysts called the worst holiday sales in four decades, some said they fared better in Canada. But many sales gains likely came at the expense of profits, industry experts cautioned.

American retailers yesterday reported sharply lower same-store sales for December that could have repercussions for the Canadian industry, experts said.

"As we've seen from Linen 'n Things and Circuit City, it's hard for the Canadian subsidiary to keep operating if its parent in the U.S. is having serious financial difficulties," said Maude Tremblay, an analyst with debt-rating agency Standard & Poor's. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

MUMBAI Pakistan's security agencies had authorized confirmation the surviving Mumbai gunman was from Pakistan, a former adviser yesterday, adding he was sacked because the prime minister had been uninformed. India said for weeks the gunman captured in Mumbai was from Pakistan, who replied that his name could not be found in a database of citizens.

INDIA A teacher who blinded a six-year-old girl by inserting a pin into her right eye will be charged with attempted murder, officials said. Police said the teacher pricked the girl's eye after she failed to answer a question in class.

NEPAL The UN's human rights agency has urged Nepal to search for girls who went missing after their parents sold them into domestic service, and urged an end to the practice. REUTERS

Business in brief

BLU-RAY DVD revenue in the United States fell by eight per cent in 2008, but a new report projects it's only a matter of time before Blu-ray begins to compensate for declining returns from traditional discs. For now, the picture is a bit dimmer. Even accounting for the sales of the fledgling high-def format, the home entertainment industry absorbed a six per cent decline last year. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Avoid homes housing hidden troubles

Marketplace

Buying a new house is probably the biggest purchase you will ever make. It's supposed to come with peace of mind, both financially and structurally. But some Canadians who bought new homes during the housing boom are just now finding out that new doesn't always mean trouble-free. And that could be a lot of people. Even with the economic slowdown, more than 83,600 new homes will be built in Canada this year.

Joe and Joanne West of Hamilton have been in their new home for just three years. But within two weeks of moving in, part of their basement floor caved in. Within the next few months, they compiled a list of more than 100 problems, including serious leaks, an unsteady roof and shaky floors. So in addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on their new home, they had to spend thousands more to start fixing their house.

As with most things, you have to do a lot of work to make sure that what you are getting is a quality product.

How does a new home become a fixer-upper? As with most things, you have to do a lot of work to make sure that what you are getting is a quality product.

For the Wests, the problems started before they took possession. The City of Hamilton didn't issue a building permit, which is required by law, until five months after construction began. That means the builder started work on the house without the building plans reviewed by the city.

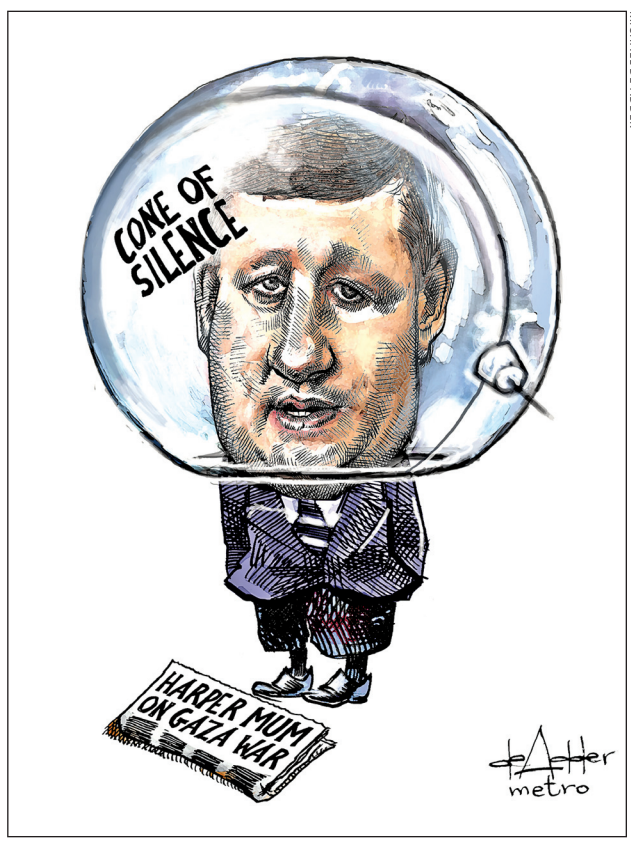
If the Wests were buying a new toaster, they could just take it back. But it's not as easy to do that with a new house. Instead, the Wests began a fight with their builder, the City of Hamilton, and Tarion (Ontario's new-home warranty program). In the end, they received a settlement from Tarion, but their fight still isn't settled with the builder or the city.

If you're worried about getting sunk with a money pit of a brand new home, there are things you can do:

Get references from your builder. Before buying, make sure your real-estate lawyer checks for any liens against the house and that an occupancy permit has been issued. Check that all building permits are issued.

Get an independent inspector to check your home before you take possession.

Wendy Mesley is co-host of CBC TV's Marketplace. To learn more about new home buying pitfalls, check out this season's premiere episode, New Home Nightmares, Friday, Jan. 9 at 8:30 p.m. or go to www.cbc.ca/marketplace.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Underage wives wrong, no matter the faith

UrbanCompass

Sometimes, you just know when something is wrong. And the fundamentalist Mormon sect in Bountiful, B.C., has been wrong for a very long time.

Out there nestled in the Kootenays, sect leader Winston Blackmore has managed to allegedly accumulate an estimated 26 wives (a number of them allegedly 16 or younger when he married them) and 108 children.

There's nothing new about the Blackmore men folk building herds of wives — they've been at it since 1946.

Yet B.C.'s authorities have stood by, wringing their hands, afraid that if they did anything, well, something might happen.

Their worst fear is that, even though polygamy is illegal in Canada, the law hasn't been tested in modern times, and Blackmore will successfully defend polygamous ways under the Charter of Rights freedom of religion provisions.

Then what do they do? At least one matrimonial enthusiast, Aly Hindy of Toronto, has "blessed" more than 30, um, extra marriages, and he didn't sound very apologetic in a recent quote: "This is our religion," he crowed, "and nobody can force us to do anything against our religion."

Fortunately, Wally Oppal, B.C.'s attorney general, is immune to wedlock mindlock and has had Blackmore and the rest of the Bountiful bulls in his sights since he was appointed in 2005, and on Wednesday, he arrested Blackmore.

I don't care if you believe, as the members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and its various splinter groups do, in the doctrine of plural marriage.

I do care if you allegedly groom young girls by brainwashing them from birth, then parcel them out like gold medals for good behaviour. I do care that they have absolutely no say in the matter.

In short, whatever you believe, it's wrong to force, through some spurious authority, your beliefs on those who are underaged, innocent, weak.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Sinclair honoured

The Canadian Soccer Association announced Thursday that Burnaby's Christine Sinclair, left, is the female selection for the 2008 Adidas Canadian Player of the Year award. The 25-year-old played 22 games for the national team in 2008, scoring 13 times. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Tavares traded

The Ontario Hockey League London Knights acquired Team Canada hero John Tavares, left, from the Oshawa Generals on Thursday. It's not known when he will make his Knights debut, but if he's in the lineup Friday, he'll face his former team as London hosts the Generals. Tavares is favoured to be the first pick in the 2009 NHL draft. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Running down a dream

MATTHEW WUEST
Metro Canada

As a single mother of three, it goes without saying that Denise Robson does plenty of running around.

But Robson is not just a single mother of three; she's also the fastest 40-and-older marathoner in Canadian history. And for her, running around involves a lot more than the traditional duties of parenthood.

The 40-year-old Nova Scotia woman fits in training whenever she can: Shorter runs on her lunch breaks; longer 12-kilometre runs from her office to her home after she's done work.

"I shake my head all the time," Robson groans at how she manages training with girls aged eight, 10 and 12. "I have to balance things because it's important my running time isn't taking away from my time with my kids."

Robson was a cross-country runner during her university days, but quit "cold turkey" 19 years ago. It wasn't until five years ago that she took it back up. She had no grand visions of running a 42.2-kilometre marathon. She was going through a separation and just wanted to relieve some stress. "A co-worker asked me to join them for a lunch-time run," she recalls. "I thought, 'Hmm, why not? Some time away from my desk, some fresh air? It would do me good.'"

Denise Robson qualified for the Boston Marathon on her first try.

Five months later, Robson entered the Prince Edward Island Marathon "just to say I'd done it."

"It was totally as a lark," she says.

It turned out to be a lot more than that. She was the fastest woman in the P.E.I. Marathon with a time of three hours, 13 minutes, and qualified for the Boston Marathon — something that usually takes years of training — by more than 30 minutes.

"Everyone was like, 'OK, wait a minute, you've got something here, Denise,'" she says. "It's been an addiction ever since."

Her times improved continuously, and last month, she smashed the country's 17-year-old masters record (and her personal best) by more than three minutes, running the California International Marathon in Sacramento in 2:41:12.

Robson was taken aback when she was informed a week after the marathon that she had made history.

"I was like, 'You've got the wrong person here. Are you kidding me, 2:41 is the record? Great, but I'm gonna be faster next year,'" says Robson.

"I'm living a dream at 40 that I should have been living at 20," she says. "I missed that opportunity at 20, so now I'm going to run with it as far as I can, no pun intended."

Friday

VS

7 p.m., Sportsnet/ TEAM 1040

Mats Sundin makes his home debut against the Blues, in a game that will also include the return of a former St. Louis centre. Ryan Johnson is still experiencing some discomfort with a broken finger, but the fracture in his foot has healed, which will allow him to play for the first time since Nov. 24. This is the first of four meetings between the Canucks and Blues, who are beginning a three-game road trip.

MUST BE THE PANTS: Jason Labarbera's numbers have been Roberto Luongo-like in his four starts: 1.92 goals-against average and a .938 save percentage. He's worn his black pants he brought from L.A. in each of the games.

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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Battle of the brides Pg 10

Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway actually made a few funnies in the film Bride Wars. Although the storyline is pretty predictable, the cynical, cutthroat humour comes with a good dollop of wit that offers a refreshing surprise.

movies Pg 12

Kevin James puts heart, soul and big butt into Mall Cop.

music Pg 14

Sam Roberts shares insights on how Canadians rock.

music Pg 14

The upcoming new iTunes poses many questions.

Also opening

Also hitting theatres on Friday is the horror film The Unborn. Visit metronews.ca/movies for screen times and images. A review of the movie will also be online on Sunday, and in the Monday edition of Metro. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Married to predictability

Bride **Wars**

Director: Gary Winick
Stars: Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway
Classification: PG
Rating:

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway transform from best friends to bridezillas when their weddings are booked on the same day.

Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway actually made a few funnies in the film Bride Wars.

The generically titled flick about two BFFs turned frenemies in the preamble to their coinciding nuptials is just in time for one of the most popular wedding-movie months of the year.

And although the storyline is gag-me-with-a-spoon predictable, the cynical, cut-throat humour comes with a good dollop of wit that offers a refreshing surprise.

Emma (Hathaway) and Liv (Hudson) have been best friends since grade school and both have dreamed of June weddings at the Plaza Hotel in New York City since catching a peek of one while attending tea service with their mothers as youngsters.

The live-in boyfriends of each (played by Chris Pratt and Steve Howey) end up proposing around the same time, a scheduling mix-up with fictionally infamous wedding planner Marion St. Claire (Candice Bergen) follows, and — voila! — a nightmare is born.

The bosom buddies' weddings are booked on the same day, at the same time, in adjacent rooms and neither bride will relinquish her date or location. Resentment builds until it explodes into an all-out war on the day of their shared wedding shower.

"Your wedding better watch it!" shouts Hudson. "Your wedding better sleep with one eye open."

Since it's January and most of us have spent the last two months being overly nice to everyone in our paths, it comes as a bit of a treat to indulge in the sabotage-fest that ensues. It's tiring being nice all the time as Hathaway's character Emma discovers part way through the film.

Greg DePaul and Casey Wilson probably could have written the screenplay in their sleep, but much of the dialogue is intelligent and Kristen Johnston (Third Rock from the Sun) puts on a decent supporting actress performance as Emma's unstable colleague-turned-maid-of-honour-by-default.

The main disappointment is director Gary Winick's decision to go with the melodramatic ending that tries to suck a few tears out of the audience. It ends up overplayed with a vomit-inducing result.

Otherwise, it'll be a decent rental for a Friday night in February.

On the web

- To see a Bride Wars trailer, and for more pictures from the movies, visit metronews.ca/movies

Believe Wrestler hype

The **Wrestler**

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Stars: Mickey Rourke, Marisa Tomei
Classification: STC
Rating:

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Mickey Rourke plays a beaten wrestler trying for a comeback in The Wrestler.

When we last saw director Darren Aronofsky, he was fielding flack over his controversial, half-loathed and half-loved, The Fountain, a picture who's ambitious storytelling seemed to spill out from the most fevered of imaginations.

Which is why his latest film The Wrestler is, on the surface, such a startling sidestep. Telling the tale of downtrodden, past his prime rope rider Randy (The Ram) Robinson and the desperate web of misery he weaves in the twilight of his life.

Aronofsky abandons the slick visual palette he employed in the nihilistic Requiem for a Dream and the time/space mind warp of The Fountain in favour of a gritty, low budget, intimate and emotionally shattering peek into a heart without hope.

Much has already been written and whispered about The Wrestler being the resurrection of equally faded '80s icon Mickey Rourke — and for once, the hype is supported by truth. As Robinson, the now brute-like Rourke (rendered almost unrecognizable) delivers a performance so painfully honest that he appears not to be acting at all — for all intents and purposes he is The Ram. If Rourke doesn't lock up an Oscar for his blistering work in this picture, then there truly is no justice in the world.

"HILARIOUS!"
Kelli Gillespie, CW-TV/San Diego
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Nadine Rajabi, National Lampoon TV and Comedy Radio XM
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BEST ACTOR
BEST ACTRESS
BEST DIRECTOR
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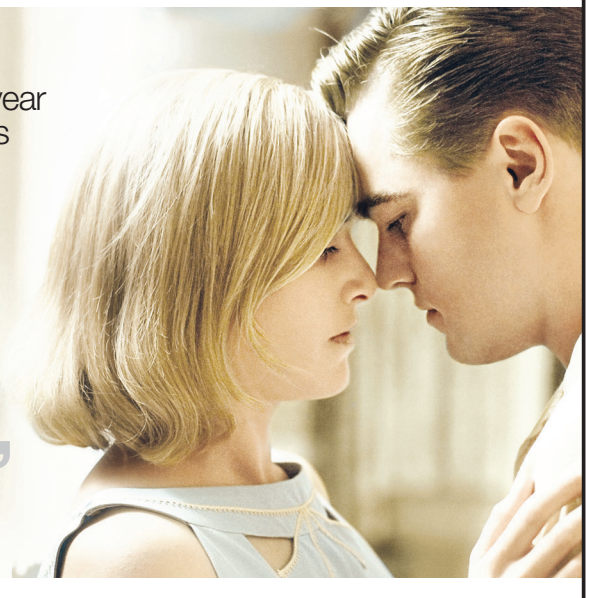
"Two of the best performances of the year in one of the best films of the year!"
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
Roger Ebert
"Flawless. A Deeply Heartfelt Work That Raises The Bar Of Filmmaking To Exhilarating Heights."
THE NEW YORK OBSERVER
Rex Reed

"Sam Mendes' 'Revolutionary Road' is a hands-down, bet-the-farm, watch-it-three-times-in-a-row masterpiece."
San Francisco Chronicle
Mick LaSalle
Revolutionary Road
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY RICHARD YATES
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"★★★★"

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"★★★½" OUT OF 4

GLOBE AND MAIL ★ LIAM LACEY
"★★★" OUT OF 4

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Best Actress EMMA THOMPSON (Musical or Comedy)

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JEFFREY LYONS, NBC/LYONS & BAILES REEL TALK

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Contract extension for Paramount CEO
Viacom Inc renewed the contract of Paramount Pictures' chief executive, Brad Grey, for a period of five years, a person close to the company said on Thursday. REUTERS

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Mall Cop dreams big

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Kevin James plays a bumbling security guard fighting terrorists in the upcoming comedy Paul Blart: Mall Cop.

FEATURE After a nine year run on TV's The King of Queens, Kevin James now has big plans to become a movie star. To some, that may sound like a lofty goal but not to the 43-year-old comic. After all, his comedy heroes were also quite big. Literally.

"Jackie Gleason was a guy who could move and was a big guy," James immediately said when asked of his idols during a recent interview. "I loved all the big guys – (John) Belushi, (John) Candy, Chris Farley — I had a connection to those guys and being (larger) myself, I really, really enjoyed how they moved and their style."

If James doesn't achieve his heroes' level of fame, it surely isn't for lack of physical ability. In his new big-screen comedy Paul Blart: Mall Cop (in theatres next Friday) James plays a bumbling unarmed security guard who must defend his shopping centre from a gang of gun-wielding terrorists. In the process, he falls 45 feet through a glass skylight, gets punched out by a woman and wipes out into several large objects.

"We wanted it to be really, really physical and make it an action-comedy and we did, we went hard," said James, who also co-wrote the film. "I went crazy for this movie because I said, 'this is my idea, if I'm going to be out on the line, I'm going to push it' and we certainly did."

One such stunt involved running face-first into a glass door, a stunt that not only looks incredibly painful but involved James ricocheting back and flipping head over heels.

"We wanted it be really, really physical."
Kevin James

"That was a little insane," laughs James. "I hit it hard. I just wanted to make it look real and it was real."

Blart's other comic device is his trusty Segway, the two-wheeled personal transporter many security personnel now possess in American malls.

"I laughed so hard when I saw (mall cops) on these things," James admitted, insisting the first sight of him on the transporter was perhaps even more pathetic but a perfect gag for the film. "I look like Hitchcock floating basically — that's all it was, just a mass floating by."

Road to domestic hell full of dull theatrics

Revolutionary Road

Director: Sam Mendes
Stars: Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●½

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Christmas may be over but holiday turkey can still be savoured in Revolutionary Road, the latest overstuffed and undercooked exercise in empty, posturing theatrics from director Sam Mendes.

Based on the book by Richard Yates, the film reunites Titanic co-stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as Frank and April Wheeler, a young couple trapped in '50s domestic hell, and mines the same bitter, but tired "suburban life sucks" territory Mendes covered in his considerably more amusing — but woefully overrated — Oscar-winning satire American Beauty.

This one sports half of Beauty's laughs and twice its pretensions and is ultimately duller than a sink full of day-old dishwater.

The picture starts promisingly enough with a clever pre-credits montage that brilliantly sets up the couple's sweaty-palmed courtship, but it goes nowhere slowly, looking pretty (the gauzy cinematography by Roger Deakins is a major asset) while not registering on any emotional level whatsoever.

And for all the endless dramatic fireworks (DiCaprio and Winslet are excellent actors but are like Oscar-baiting gunslingers at a shooting gallery here) we never get to really know or care about Frank and April, thus the big, already controversial climax feels both condescending and utterly hollow.

Another side of Jewish history

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

FEATURE When screenwriter Clayton Frohman first showed a newspaper obituary about a wartime Jewish resistance fighter to Blood Diamond director Edward Zwick, the Oscar-winning filmmaker was resistant himself.

"I said, 'The holocaust? What more could we possibly have to add to this subject?'" explained Zwick during a recent stop in Toronto. After reading the article however, he soon discovered a biography about said refugee and "realized that indeed there was something — a pretty glaring omission — which had to do with resistance; that the monolithic understanding that Jews had been entirely passive (during the war) was incorrect."

With Defiance — in theatres next Friday — Zwick is now behind the stunning true story of Tuvia Bielski (starring Daniel Craig — taking a break from James Bond), the Jewish resistance fighter who led over a thousand refugees through a Belarus forest battling German soldiers, starvation and bitter winters.

When the director presented a private screening for some of the survivors and ancestors of the actual event, it became clear just how important this simple obituary-originated story actually was for Zwick to tell.

"A 12-year-old or a 14-year-old's memory of an event like this is obviously particular and I think for them its been an opportunity to not just express something but to have it shaped in some way," Zwick said.

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 9 TO THURS., JAN. 15. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Journey Into Amazing Caves (STC) A.M. Fri-Thu 11 Sat 7:30
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Fri Sat-Sun 5
Roving Mars (G) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat 8:30

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Space Station 3D (G) Fri 12-2-6 Sat-Sun 12-2-4-6 Mon-Thu 12-2-6
U2 3D (G) Fri-Thu 8
Wild Ocean (G) Fri 1-3-7 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7 Mon-Thu 1-3-7

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Valkyrie (PG) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35

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The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-6-9:15
Milk (PG) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:55 Wed 1:50-4:30-9:55 Thu 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:55
The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:45
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7-9:35
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:25

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Australia (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:20-8 Mon-Thu 8
Body of Lies (18A) Fri-Thu 9:25
Bolt (G) Sat-Sun 12:55-4:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri 6:55-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-6:55-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 7:05 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:25-7:05 Mon-Thu 7:05
The Spirit (14A) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:25-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri-Thu 6:45-9:40
Twilight (PG) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:50-4-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:45
Waltz With Bashir (R) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50

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3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

The Duchess (14A) Fri 9:40 Sat-Sun 3:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 9:40
W. (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Bedtime Stories (G) DTS Digital Fri 7:15-9:45 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:15-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45
Bride Wars (G) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Marley & Me (G) DTS Digital Fri 6:45-9:35 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:45-9:35 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 6:45-9:35

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

Thirty-Two Short Films About Glenn Gould (STC) Fri 9:15 Sat 7:30 Sun 9:15 Mon 7:30 Wed 9:15
Trouble the Water (STC) Thu 7:30
The Wild Child (STC) Fri 7:30 Sat 9:25 Sun 7:30 Mon 9:25 Wed 7:30

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Gran Torino (14A) Fri 4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30
Last Chance Harvey (PG) A.M. Sun 10

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Doubt (G) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Blade Runner (STC) Fri-Sat 12
Day of the Dead (STC) Fri
The Hunger (STC) Fri-Sat
Night of the Living Dead (STC) Fri 12
World's Best Commercials (STC) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 12:30-4:30-8:30 Sun-Thu 12:30-4:30-8:30 Fri 1:30-5:30-9:30 Sun-Wed 1:30-5:30-9:30 Thu 1:30-9:45
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:30
Marley & Me (G) Fri 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:40 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:40
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine Sat 10
Milk (PG) Fri 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:50
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:20
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri 12:35-3:30-7-10 Sun-Thu 12:35-3:30-7-10
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 1-4-7:20-10:10 Sun-Thu 1-4-7:20-10:10
Yes Man (PG) Fri 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:05 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:05

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10
Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-1:10-2:20-3:30-4:40-5:50-7-8:10-9:20-10:30
Doubt (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:25-7:55-10:20
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:20-7:10-9:55 Wed-Thu 1:05-4:20-9:55
Rachel Getting Married (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05 No Passes Wed 2:05-4:45-10:05 No Passes Thu 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05
The Reader (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:10
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri-Thu 1:55-5-7:50-10:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:30-10:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 1-4
The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:25-5:45-8-10:15
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:50-6:30-7:40-9:30-10:35

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Le Grand Voyage (STC) Sat 9 Sun 7 Mon 9 Tue 7 Wed 9 Thu 7
The Grocer's Son (STC) Sat 7 Sun 9:15 Mon 7 Tue 9:15 Wed 7 Thu 9:15

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Valkyrie (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:35-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:35
Bolt (G) Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:55-4:30-8 Mon-Thu 8
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 7-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 7:15-9:45
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
Yes Man (PG) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri 7-9:40 No Passes Sun 12:50-3:20-7-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri 9:45 Sun-Thu 9:45
Marley & Me (G) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine (STC) Sat 10
Milk (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sun 12:10-3-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30 Star & Strollers Thu 1
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sun 12:20-3:10-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 7:15 Sun 12-2:30-5-7:15 Mon-Thu 7:15
The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:50 No Passes Sun 12:40-3:40-7:10-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 4:30-7:05-9:35 Sat 1:05-4:30-7:05-9:35 Sun 1:05-4:30-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:05
Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri 4:35-7:15-9:40 No Passes Sat 1:15-4:35-7:15-9:40 No Passes Sun 1:15-4:35-7:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:35-7:15
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 4:15-7:40 Sat-Sun 12:55-4:15-7:40 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:40
Marley & Me (G) Fri 4:20-7:9:45 Sat 1-4:20-7-9:45 Sun 1-4:20-7 Mon-Thu 4:20-7
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 4:25-6:55-9:30 Sat 1:20-4:25-6:55-9:30 Sun 1:20-4:25-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-6:55
Yes Man (PG) Fri 4:40-7:25-9:55 Sat 1:10-4:40-7:25-9:55 Sun 1:10-4:40-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:25

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Australia (PG) Fri 3:45-7:55 Sun-Thu 3:45-7:55
Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:20 Sun-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:20
Bolt (G) Fri 12:30-2:55-5:15-7:35-10 Sun-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:15-7:35-10
Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:10-7:05-9:30 No Passes Sun-Wed 1:40-4:10-7:05-9:30 No Passes Thu 4:10-7:05-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 12:40-1:30-4:15-5:30-8:15-9:30 Sun-Thu 12:40-1:30-4:15-5:30-8:15-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 1-4-7-9:45 Sun-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Doubt (G) Fri 1:25-4:05-6:50-9:25 Sun-Wed 1:25-4:05-6:50-9:25 Thu 4:05-6:50-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri 12:35-4:25-8:45 Sun-Thu 12:35-4:25-8:45
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 1:15-4:30-7:40-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:40-10:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 1:05 Sun-Thu 1:05
Marley & Me (G) Fri 12:55-4-7-9:55 Sun-Thu 12:55-4-7-9:55
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine (STC) Sat 10
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 1:35-4:40-7:20-10:25 Sun-Thu 1:35-4:40-7:20-10:25
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri 12:45-3:55-7:10-10:15 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:55-7:10-10:15
The Spirit (14A) Fri 1:45-4:35-7:40-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:40-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 12:35-2:55-5:15-7:30-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:35-2:55-5:15-7:30-9:50
Twilight (PG) Fri 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:35 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:35
The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri 1:50-4:50-7:25-10:05 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:25-10:05
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 1-4:20-7:15-10:10 Sun-Thu 1-4:20-7:15-10:10
Yes Man (PG) Fri 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:45 Sun-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:45

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Closed for Renovations

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 12:30-3:20-7:20-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:30-3:20-7:20-9:50
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri 12-2:30-5-7:30 Sun-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30
Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri 12:45-3:30-7:05-9:40 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:05-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 12:05-3:45-7:40 Sun-Thu 12:05-3:45-7:40
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 1-4:05-7:15-10:15 No Passes Sun-Thu 1-4:05-7:15-10:15
Marley & Me (G) Fri 12:10-3:15-6:30-9:45 Sun-Thu 12:10-3:15-6:30-9:45
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine (STC) Sat 10
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 10:10 Sun-Thu 10:10
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri 12:40-4-7:10-10 Sun-Wed 12:40-4-7:10-10 Thu 12:40-4-10
Twilight (PG) Fri 12:15-3:45-6:50-9:40 Sun-Tue 12:15-3:45-6:50-9:40 Wed 12:15-3:45-9:40 Thu 12:15-3:45-6:50-9:40
The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri 1:10-3:40-7:35-9:55 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:10-3:40-7:35-9:55
Yes Man (PG) Fri 12:20-3:35-6:55-10:05 Sun 12:20-3:35-6:55-10:05 Mon 12:20-3:35-10:05 Tue-Thu 12:20-3:35-6:55-10:05

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Australia (PG) Fri 4:35-7:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:40 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:40
Changeling (14A) Fri-Sat 7-9:45 Sun-Thu 7
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri 4:45-7:15-9:55 Sat 1:55-4:45-7:15-9:55 Sun 1:55-4:45-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:15
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:55 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:55 Mon-Thu 4:55
The Spirit (14A) Fri 5-7:30-10:10 Sat 2-5-7:30-10:10 Sun 2-5-7:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 4:40-7:05-9:50 Sat 1:50-4:40-7:05-9:50 Sun 1:50-4:40-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:05
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sat 7:35-10 Sun-Thu 7:35
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 4:50-7:25-10:05 Sat 1:45-4:50-7:25-10:05 Sun 1:45-4:50-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:25

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Australia (PG) Fri 3:55-8:10 Sun-Thu 3:55-8:10
Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri 12:10-2:35-4:55-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sun-Tue 12:10-2:35-4:55-7:30-10:30 No Passes Wed 4:55-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:10-2:35-4:55-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 12:05-2:30-4-6:30-8-10:05 Sun-Thu 12:05-2:30-4-6:30-8-10:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:45 Sun-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:45
Doubt (G) Fri 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35 Sun-Tue 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35 Wed 3:35-6:35-9:35 Thu 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 12:15 Sun-Thu 12:15
Marley & Me (G) Fri 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:55 Sun-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:55
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine Sat 10
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:25 Mon 12:25-3:25-9:25 Tue-Thu 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:25
The Reader (18A) Fri 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40
The Spirit (14A) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35 Sun-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35
Twilight (PG) Fri 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20 Sun-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20
The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri 12-2:20-4:45-7:10-10:10 No Passes Sun-Thu 12-2:20-4:45-7:10-10:10
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 1-4-7-10 Sun-Thu 1-4-7-10
Yes Man (PG) Fri 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sun-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Marley & Me (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat 1:30-7-9:20 Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 4
Bolt (G) Fri 4:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-4:45 Mon-Thu 4:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 12:30-7 Mon-Thu 7
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:15-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 9
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 8:30
Twilight (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:45
Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:10 No Passes Wed 4:20-7:30-10:10 No Passes Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-4:05-7:50
Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Thu 12-3:55-8
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:10:05
Marley & Me (G) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:35 Wed 4:10-6:55-9:35 Thu 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (G) Fri-Thu 3:20-7:40
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:45-9:55
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 1
The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:45-4-7:15-10
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:50-9:40
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:25-7:05-9:50

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Bedtime Stories (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:20-9:50
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:20
Bride Wars (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:35-7-9:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:15-9:50
Gran Torino (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-10
Marley & Me (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:55-9:55
Quantum of Solace (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 6:45-9:35
Seven Pounds (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-9:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:35-4:15
Twilight (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:40
The Unborn (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:25-9:45
Valkyrie (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:05-4-6:55-9:55
Yes Man (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:05-9:40

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterontheatres.com

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:10-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterontheatres.com

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 7:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:20
Bride Wars (G) Fri 7:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:30
Marley & Me (G) Fri 7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:25
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Australia (PG) Fri 5-8:40 Sun 5-8:40 Mon-Thu 7:30
Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 12:50-3:40-6:55-9:50 Sun 12:50-3:40-6:55-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:55-9:50
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri 12-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:20 Sun 12-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:45-9:30
Bride Wars (G) No Passes Fri 1-4:10-7:35-10:15 No Passes Sun 1-4:10-7:35-10:15 No Passes Mon-Tue 4:10-7:35-10:15 No Passes Wed 7:35-10:15 No Passes Thu 4:10-7:35-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 12-4-8 Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 4-8 Fri 12:30-4:30-8:30 Sun 12:30-4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 1-4-7-9:45 Sun 1-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45
Doubt (G) Fri 12:55-4:10-7:10-10:15 Sun 12:55-4:10-7:10-10:15 Mon-Tue 4:10-7:10-10:15 Wed 7:10-10:15 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 12:25-3:30-6:50-10 No Passes Sun 12:25-3:30-6:50-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 12:15-2:30 Sun 12:15-2:30 Mon-Thu 3:45
Marley & Me (G) Fri 12:05-12:35-3:35-4:05-6:40-7:15-9:40-10:10 Sun 12:05-12:35-3:35-4:05-6:40-7:15-9:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:35-4:05-6:40-7:15-9:40-10:10
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine Sat 10
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:25 Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20-10:25
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri 12:20-3:50-7:15-10:30 Sun 12:20-3:50-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:15-10:30
The Spirit (14A) Fri 1:05-4:25-7:40-10:30 Sun 1:05-4:25-7:40-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:40-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 12:10-2:35-4:55-7:25-9:55 Sun 12:10-2:35-4:55-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 4-6:40-9:20
Twilight (PG) Fri 12:45-3:45-7:05-10:05 Sun 12:45-3:45-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:05-10:05
The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri 1:20-4:35-7:50-10:20 No Passes Sun 1:20-4:35-7:50-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:35-7:50-10:20
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 12:40-3:55-7:10-10:25 Sun 12:40-3:55-7:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:10-10:25
Yes Man (PG) Fri 1:15-4:15-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:30-10:30

Billboard's top albums
1. Fearless, Taylor Swift, left; **2.** I AM...SASHA FIERCE, Beyoncé; **3.** 808s and Heartbreak, Kanye West; **4.** Twilight Soundtrack, Various Artists; **5.** Dark Horse, Nickelback. **REUTERS**

Music

Metro recommends

• ANTONY AND THE JOHNSONS, ANOTHER WORLD EP: Vibrato-voiced eccentric tones down his haunting sound for unique, somber piano ballads and bawdy blues ramblin'.

• SARAH SLEAN, THE BARONESS REDECORATES: T.O. chanteuse invigorates her sound with classical strings for a lush on this collection of tracks cut from her album The Baroness.

• DAVE MATTHEWS BAND, DMB LIVE TRAX VOL. 13: This fun-filled June 2008 show held at a baseball stadium includes impressive covers of classic Neil Young and Sly & the Family Stone cuts. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sam Roberts goes coastal

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada

Sam Roberts: Juno-winning rocker, hockey-playing Quebec native ... future sociologist?

"It would be an interesting study to go province by province and make some sort of blanket cultural statement based on the response crowds give to a rock 'n' roll band," Roberts said in a phone interview.

"There really is a huge, huge shift from one place to the next."

He would know. Roberts is in the midst of a Canadian tour that will bring him across the country. He first toured Canada in 2002. Since then, he's criss-crossed the country …

Touring has taught Sam Roberts, centre, that Canadians all love to rock, but we rock in different ways.

"I don't have the exact number," he said. "But it's a helluva lot!"

And here's what he's found: We all love to rock, but we rock in different ways.

"Sometimes, there are unbelievable shifts in the way people respond to rock 'n' roll music," said Roberts. "What you learn over the years is it's not necessarily that they don't like it — that's the collective behaviour, that's the collective response.

"So when you go to Saskatchewan, the response is completely different than the completely over-the-top, bordering on out-of-control response you get in the Atlantic provinces."

Unlike some artists, Roberts makes it a point to go coast to coast when he goes on tour.

"What we've done right from the beginning is try to hit all 10 provinces at least on our run across the country," said Roberts, whose most recent album, Love at the End of the World, was released in May. "We just figured that's how you do it! Why wouldn't they want to hear you in P.E.I. as much as they want to hear you in Alberta? …

"I guess we consider ourselves a band that prides itself on getting out there and playing for anybody who will listen to us."

"If you're in a band, your motto should be: If you're working, things are good. So it's hard to complain about all the work at the moment."

In concert

• Sam Robert plays the Orpheum Theatre (with The Stills) Saturday.

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TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING
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New iTunes: More questions than answers

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

We've had a couple of days to digest the big announcement from Apple at Macworld about the significant changes to iTunes, starting in April.

First, there were three tiers of pricing. Older tracks will be discounted, selling for 69 cents. Newer and more popular tracks will go for either 99 cents or $1.29. This is something the record labels have been screaming for. They've wanted variable pricing.

But the second announcement is the big one: No more digital locks on the songs.

If you've ever tried to share a song you bought from iTunes with a friend, you'll know you can't. Everything is locked to you, your computer and your device. But with no digital rights management or DRM, you can do whatever you want with a music file: Move it from device to device, burn copies and share it with friends.

And it wasn't Apple that wanted to keep DRM in place. Steve Jobs was calling for an end to digital locks as far back as February 2007. It took this long for all the labels to agree to drop the copy protection.

But what about all the songs you've already purchased from iTunes? I myself have hundreds. The good news is that we'll be able to upgrade them to DRM-free versions — but for 30 cents a song. That's still gonna hurt, but at least you can jailbreak the songs you want.

And that's still not all. When DRM disappears in April, any company can now make a music player that will work with iTunes. Up until now, the only portable players that worked with iTunes were all the flavours of iPod. Not anymore.

Question: What does this means for the record labels now that DRM is effectively dead? They won't be able to control how consumers buy and listen to and share music.

Question: Will people respond to the variable pricing strategy? Let's face it, the only people this will affect will be those who already pay for music. And soon, there will be more DRM-free music out there.

Question: Will this erode Apple's market share in the portable music player market? The iPod is still the 800-pound gorilla, but there will definitely be competition ... or does Apple have other plans to compensate?

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Donna Martin coming back to 90210
Looks like Donna Martin will return to 90210 after all. Tori Spelling is in "final negotiations" to return to the world's most famous zip code, a show rep confirmed to People magazine. **PEOPLE.COM**

Going Out

TV's degrees of separation

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER: This week's TV news contains a string of items that seem to effortlessly segue into each other, so who am I to be an obstacle to such elegance? First off is a Variety story on the latest feint by NBC at pretending it's a network that cares about programming, a drama about a man on his way to rock bottom who starts hearing music in his head that provides a clue to the direction he should be taking, at which point a new piece of music takes its place.

"I was trying to find a way to combine TV and music in an organic way," said writer and creator Jared Bush.

The show has been given the simple but straightforward title Soundtrack, and actually sounds like a half-decent idea …

QUITE UNLIKE … Dancing To The Music In My Head is the new EP by Sanjaya Malakar, which has just been released. Does anyone remember Sanjaya Malakar? Two years is a long time in American Idol terms, and it's hard not to look back on the more-hair-than-voice season six contestant as a symbol of our one-time irrational exuberance, like easy mortgages and high-risk mutual funds.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO: Former Idol executive producer Nigel Lythgoe, expressing his disapproval of the addition of a fourth judge to the Idol panel this season. "At this stage when we have this dysfunctional family of Ryan, Randy, Paula and Simon," Lythgoe told the National Ledger website, describing his reaction to the casting of songwriter Kara DioGuardi.

"Once you've been told you suck by one judge, you don't need to hear it from another three," Lythgoe said. I would disagree; if something or someone sucks, you can't say it enough times, usually because you're dealing with gargantuan self-esteem that begs to be nuked.

And thus we have a Sanjaya record, two years after the fact; I rest my case.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Mix of Six

Burn the floor
Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 5 p.m.
Award-winning international ballroom dance spectacular. Tix: $29.50-$69.50 ticketmaster.ca or 604-280-4444.

Kathy Griffin
Sat. 7:30 and 10 p.m.
Star of My Life on the D-List hits the stage at the River Rock Show Theatre for a night of stand-up comedy. Tix: $69.50-$79.50 ticketmaster.ca.

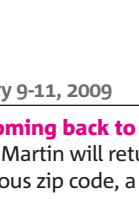
Vancouver Theatre Sports League
Fri.-Sat. 8 and 10 p.m.
Improv extreme 11:45 p.m.
Professional improvisers use on-the-spot creations of hilarious scenes. Tix: $10-$18 ticketmaster.ca.

Sam Roberts
Sat. 7:30 p.m.
Canadian rocker performs with guests The Stills at the Orpheum Theatre. Tix: $29.50-$34.50.

For The Luv Of It
Sat. 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver's up-and-coming singers, musicians and dancers showcased at the Granville Island Stage. Tix: $20, vancouvertix.com.

30th Wedding Fair
Saturday and Sunday
Vist the most successful wedding tradeshow in Canada. Vancouver Exhibition and Convention Centre. Tix: $25 door.

Metro's 7th Heaven: What's hot right now

1 Batman

The people have voted and The Dark Knight swept through the People's Choice Awards. The latest Batman movie picked up all five awards it was nominated for.

2 Revamped Golden Globe statue
The Golden Globe statue has a new look. The Golden Globe Awards will be on this Sunday.

3 Fight on New Year's
Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson were seen fighting at Miami International Airport over the holidays before flying back to L.A.

4 Daredevil couple's baby
The media is abuzz with news of Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck's newest addition to the family. Their second daughter was born Tuesday.

5 No Angie vs. Jen?

Brad Pitt has announced that there is no feud happening between his current girlfriend and ex-wife, reports intouchweekly. com. He says Jen is still a part of his life and that they "check in" with each other.

6 Twilight's next movie
For Twilight fans the cast for the sequel, New Moon, are trickling in. Everyone's favourite vampire Robert Pattinson will be back, as well as Kristen Stewart, reports people.com.

7 Celebrity Apprentice '09
Donald Trump is back with another new round of celebrities in the second season of this show, reports tvguide.com. Guests include comedian Tom Green, musician Clint Black and Olympian Scott Hamilton.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt
Read Kenya, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

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FRIDAY 1/9/09 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	Just for Laughs (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E News	The Insider	THS Investigates (CC)				20/20 (N) (CC)		News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint "Eagle Two"		Raising the Bar "Pilot" (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Howie Do It "Pilot" (CC)		Friday Night Lights "State"		NUMB3RS "Arrow of Time"		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Supernanny "Kerns Family"		Stargate SG-1 "Dominion"		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Man Tracker (CC)		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		Crusoe (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Hates Chris	The Game (N)	13: Fear Is Real (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint "Eagle Two"		NUMB3RS "Arrow of Time"		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Howie Do It "Pilot" (CC)		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Supernanny "Kerns Family"		20/20 (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bruce Almighty ★★ (2003) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman.				News (N)	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout)					Sportsnet	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	SportsCentre	Off the Record	Boxing Friday Night Fights. (Same-day Tape) (CC)				SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	Scorpion	Aquamarine ★★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Sara Paxton. (CC)				(:45) Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen (CC)	6teen (CC)	Misadventures	Futurama	Father	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
variety	268	354	5	KNO	Hockey: A People's History		Poirot "Murder in the Mews"		Dalziel & Pascoe (CC)		Picture of Light ★★ (1994, Documentary)		
	575	583	20	CMT	CMT Star	CMT Star	The Newton Boys ★★ (1998) Matthew McConaughey, Skeet Ulrich.					The Newton Boys ★★ (1998)	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Death Eminent"		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Miss America: Countdown		What Not to Wear "Yorine"		Miss America: Countdown		What Not to Wear (CC)		Real Simple
	616	522	39	SHO	The Outer Limits "Joy Ride"		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Testees (CC)	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Sin Cities	Wife Swap
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Twister ★★★ (1996) (PA) Helen Hunt.			10 Items-Less	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(9:55) The Goonies ★★ (1985) Sean Astin.		
	603	561	52	FN	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Challenge Sandwiches. (CC)		Kylie Kwong	Gourmets	Diner, Drive-In
	320	621	60	CEN	Sanctuary (N) (CC)		Sanctuary "Revelations"		Mama's Boy (2007) Jon Heder. Premiere. (CC)		(:35) 300 ★★★ (2007) (CC)		
	581	566	101	MTV	The City "The	The City "The	After	Cribs (CC)	Bromance (CC)		The City "The	The City "The	Made (CC)

SATURDAY 1/10/09 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	NHL Hockey San Jose Sharks at Vancouver Canucks. (Live) (CC)					HNIC -- After Hours		News (CC)	HNIC Replay
	255	358	6	JOY	E News	The Soup	The Haunting of Sorority Row (2007) Leighton Meester. (CC)				Show Yours	G-Spot (CC)	News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	NFL Football: NFC Playoff		Corner Gas	Corner Gas	A Friend of the Family (2005) Kim Coates, Laura Harris. (CC)				News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Sabrina's Law		Zero Hour (CC)		Mob Stories "Unto the Son"		Go Deep "Fireboats" (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	New Canoe	Island Week	The Burial Society ★★ (2002) Rob LaBelle, Jan Rubes.				Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	Bravo! Fact
	253	359	13	CITY	Without a Trace (CC)		Less-Kind	Kaya (CC)	Christie's Revenge (2007, Drama) Danielle Kind. (CC)				Role
	-	-	14	CW	CSI: NY "Wasted" (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: NY "Risk" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		Game Show	Game Show	Criminal Minds (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Crusoe (CC)		Law & Order "Strike" (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Bachelor (CC)				True Beauty (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	NFL Football: NFC Playoff		Cops (CC)	Raymond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	News (N)	Most Wanted	MADtv (CC)
news	502	390	26	NW	Doc Zone (CC)		Sat. Report	Fortune	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Doc Zone (CC)		Sat. Report
	500	500	33	CNN	D.L. Hughley-News		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Investigations
sports	407	419	22	RSP	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA. (Same-day Tape)				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30	TSN	Curling: Skins Game		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		NFL Films	NFL	Rodeo: PRCA National Finals		SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	Team Galaxy	Team Galaxy	Zixx Level	Storm Hawks	Naruto (CC)	Bleach (CC)	Ghost	Ghost	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Doctor Dolittle ★★ (1998) Eddie Murphy, Ossie Davis. (CC)				Carl2	Futurama	Tank Girl ★ (1995) Lori Petty, Ice-T. (CC)		
variety	268	354	5	KNO	Thunderbeast (CC)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders "Country Matters" (N) (CC)				Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Keith Urban: Invitation Only		Grand Ole Opry Live		Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Keith Urban: Invitation Only		Ed (CC)
	615	520	31	A&E	The Sopranos "Rat Pack"		The Sopranos (CC)		CSI: Miami "Entrance Wound"		CSI: Miami "Bunk" (CC)		The Sopranos
	521	560	34	TLC	The Real Estate Pros (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	My First Home	My First Home	The Real Estate Pros (CC)		My First Home
	616	522	39	SHO	Mutant X (CC)		The Wrong Guy ★★ (1998) Dave Foley, Jennifer Tilly.				The Fast and the Furious ★★ (2001) (CC)		
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Men in Black ★★★		Vegas Vacation ★ (1997, Comedy) Chevy Chase. (CC)				Zoolander ★★ (2001) Ben Stiller. (CC)		
	603	561	52	FN	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		The F Word		Challenge Pie competition.		Top Chef "Focus Group"		Hell's Kitchen
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:15) Flicka ★★ (2006) (CC)		Love in the Time of Cholera ★★ (2007) Javier Bardem. Premiere. (CC)					Stardust ★★★ (2007) (CC)	
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Live	MTV News	After

SUNDAY 1/11/09 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Heartland Amy is star struck.		Dragon's Den (N) (CC)		Being Erica "Dr. Tom" (CC)		CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		News (CC)
	255	358	6	JOY	Annual Golden Globe Awards		Extreme Makeover: Home		Fantastic Four ★★ (2005) Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba. (CC)				News (CC)
	250	321	9	CTV	Desperate Housewives (N)		The 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards Achievement in film and TV industries. (CC)						News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	16:9 Picture	The Simpsons	24 Tony Almeida is responsible for a terrifying threat. (CC)				Brothers & Sisters (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Golden Globes Red Carpet		Million Dollar Password (N)		Cold Case "Breaking News"		Medium (CC)		New Canoe
	253	359	13	CITY	Two/Half Men	The World Is Not Enough ★★ (1999, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau, Robert Carlyle. (CC)							Role
	-	-	14	CW	Jericho (CC)		Carrie ★★★ (1976, Horror) Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie.				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	289	381	15	CBS	To Be Announced		Million Dollar Password (N)		Cold Case "Breaking News"		The Unit (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Golden Globes Red Carpet		The 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards Achievement in film and TV industries. (CC)						News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	24 Tony Almeida is responsible for a terrifying threat. (CC)				News (N)	Q It Up Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	26	NW	March of the Penguins ★★★ (2005, Documentary) (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night		March of the Penguins ★★★ (2005) (CC)		
	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		D.L. Hughley-News		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Investigations
sports	407	419	22	RSP	World Cup Skiing FIS Alpine.		Skiing	World Sport	Red Bull: Air Race		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			NFL	Motoring 2009	Rodeo: PRCA National Finals		SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	Alex Rider: Stormbreaker		SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	The Next Star (CC)		Adrenaline	Zixx Level	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Totally Spies	6teen (CC)	6teen (CC)	Carl2 (CC)	Futurama	Hellboy: Sword of Storms (2006, Fantasy) (CC)		
variety	268	354	5	KNO	Inside Jerusalem's Holiest		Doc Martin "On the Edge"		Rebus "The Falls" (N) (CC)		Dalziel & Pascoe (CC)		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	CMT's Greatest		Cheerleader Nation		Dallas Cheerleaders		Toby Keith: One on One		Cheerleader
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Chain Reaction"		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Deep Freeze"		CSI: Miami "Sunblock" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Mystery Diag.
	616	522	39	SHO	The Guard (CC)		Love Notes (2007, Drama) Laura Leighton, Antonio Cupo. (CC)				Catwoman ★ (2004, Action) Halle Berry. (CC)		
	294	650	47	TBS	(:15) The School of Rock ★★★ (2003) Jack Black, Joan Cusack. (CC)					(:45) Joe Dirt ★ (2001) David Spade, Dennis Miller. (CC)			
	603	561	52	FN	The Next Food Network Star		The Heat	The Heat	The Next Great Chef (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Next Star
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:30) Who's Your Caddy? ★		Three Chords	Three Chords	The Other Boleyn Girl ★★ (2008) Natalie Portman. (CC)				Santa
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After	MTV News	Made "Hockey Player" (CC)		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After

Reality stars take over Mother episode
TV reality stars Heidi Montag, Spencer Pratt (The Hills), Kendra Wilkinson (The Girls Next Door) and Kim Kardashian (Keeping Up with the Kardashians) will make appearances on the Jan. 12 episode of How I Met Your Mother. EONLINE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

No Gossip Girl role for Nicole

CAREER Sorry Upper East Siders: Nicole Richie won't be joining the cast of Gossip Girl any time soon, usmagazine.com says.

Richie's rep tells the website that it's "not true" she's planning to guest star on the CW show. Rumors began after a New York newspaper reported that Richie "loves Gossip Girl and she wants a really b—hy, juicy role."

Richie played a bully on NBC's Chuck earlier this season. She's currently focusing on her House of Harlow jewelry line.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Piven's mercury story in doubt

CAREER The folks behind Jeremy Piven's aborted Broadway run in Speed the Plow may be looking to recoup their investment. Piven abruptly left the show last month because of "mercury poisoning" from eating too much sushi. To the investors, the whole thing sounds fishy, according to the New York Post.

Producers for the show revealed that Piven has been examined by another doctor to get a second opinion, and if it turns out he's playing sick, they may be able to "squeeze some money out of him," a source said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Amy serenades fling

RELATIONSHIP Amy Winehouse serenaded her new man in a hotel bar on Wednesday, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The troubled singer dedicated her impromptu performance to budding actor Josh Bowman at a Caribbean hotel bar.

A guest at the hotel revealed: "When she finished playing, she rushed over to Josh and was hugging and kissing him. Her voice was amazing. Josh was obviously impressed. They were all over each other."

Amy played the piano and sang to the 25 guests in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Josh, 21, has denied rumours he is romantically involved with the married star after pictures of the couple cuddling in St Lucia were published this week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

ScarJo's unusual Spice Girl goals

PEOPLE Scarlett Johansson is a "Stay-at-home-and-veg Spice," reports femalefirst.co.uk

The 24-year-old actress admits she felt terrible watching husband, Canadian Ryan Reynolds, compete in the New York Marathon last year because she doesn't have the energy to do it herself.

She said: "I went to some random spot and saw everybody going past. It was really incredible. I'm a horrible runner — I can barely put one foot in front of the other.

"I saw that Jennifer Lopez did a triathlon and I'm like, 'Damn, girl, you just had twins!' It's amazing."

Referring to the nicknames the Spice Girls gave themselves — Posh Spice, Ginger Spice, Sporty Spice, Baby Spice and Scary Spice — Scarlett added: "I'm so not a Sporty Spice — I'm a stay-at-home-and-veg Spice."

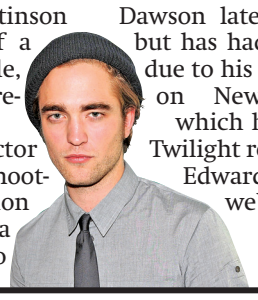
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pattinson pulls out of planned role

CAREER Robert Pattinson has pulled out of a planned movie role, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The British actor was due to start shooting Parts per Billion alongside Olivia Thirlby and Rosario Dawson later this month but has had to withdraw due to his commitments on New Moon, in which he reprises his Twilight role as vampire Edward Cullen, the website says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



King of Bel Air?

PEOPLE Bel Air has a new, not-so-fresh prince, eonline.com reports.

Michael Jackson is currently holed up in the tiny Los Angeles neighborhood after inking a year-long lease on a $100,000 US-per-month French chateau built in 2002, the website says.

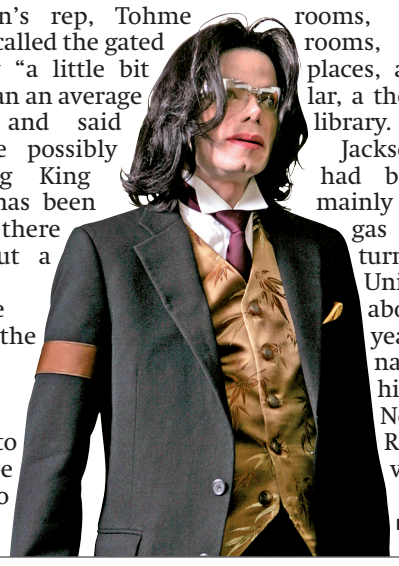
Jackson's rep, Tohme Tohme, called the gated property "a little bit more than an average home" and said that the possibly returning King of Pop has been living there for about a month.

Thome said the Thriller singer moved back to L.A. to be closer to Hollywood and showbiz in general.

"He might want to build his own dream house, although the real estate market isn't very good right now," Tohme told the Los Angeles Times, which reported that Jackson's current digs are a French chateau with seven bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, 12 fireplaces, a wine cellar, a theater and a library.

Jackson, who had been living mainly in Las Vegas since returning to the United States about two years ago, finally let go of his idling Neverland Ranch in November.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Mario dishes on his first kiss with Fergie

PEOPLE While Stacy (Fergie) Ferguson and actor Josh Duhamel make final preparations for their weekend nuptials, Extra host Mario Lopez can't wait to share in their happy day, people.com reports.

And Lopez has a special bond with Fergie: Both were one other's first kiss in the '80s, when they starred on Kids Incorporated.

"It's a true story. I'm very proud of my first kiss," says Lopez. "She says there was no tongue!"

But there was a romance, albeit brief, for the youngsters. "I wrote her a note and, as she likes to point out, I was very smooth at 10 because I bought her perfume," Lopez says, laughing. "I think the gesture was pretty good for a kid."

Once the young romance fizzled, a friendship blossomed. "I'm happy to say Stacy has stayed just as sweet as when we were kids," Lopez says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ellen offer help finding Mr. Right

PEOPLE Having tiptoed around her dating life, Anne Hathaway was cornered by Ellen DeGeneres on the subject of Mr. Right, people.com reports.

"If you need someone, I will find you a boyfriend," the TV host told the actress on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. "I'm really good at it."

"Did you see how nervous I just got?" responded Hathaway.

"You don't even have to date," advises DeGeneres. "You can go straight to commitment."

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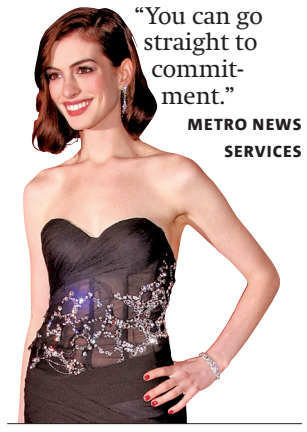

Kidman can't watch own films

PEOPLE Nicole Kidman can't bear to watch herself onscreen. The actress claims the only films of hers she has watched are those directed by Baz Luhrmann. "I saw Moulin Rouge. I've really only seen (Moulin Rouge) and (Australia) in my whole career," Kidman told Australian radio station 2dayFM. "It gets worse as I get older."

Kidman recounted how uncomfortable the Australia premiere made her: "I can't look at this movie and be proud of what I've done ... It's just impossible for me to connect to it emotionally at all."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today Rain 70% 6°/ 4°
Saturday Rain 100% 5° / 3°
Sunday Rain 60% 7°/ 5°

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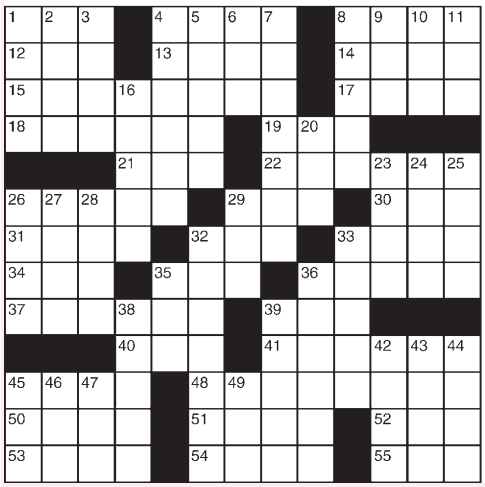
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Wool wearer
4 Out of harm's way
8 Forehead
12 Prune
13 Mountain goat
14 Discourteous
15 Somewhat buried (in)
17 Prayer closer
18 Breastbones
19 Legislation
21 Jewel
22 Dormant
26 Mixed metal
29 Marceau character
30 One of the kin
31 "Give a —, don't pollute"
32 Oppositionist
33 Minor players
34 Past
35 Candle matter
36 Hiawatha's craft
37 Flock loser
39 Scratch
40 Pod occupant
41 Wears away
45 Poolroom supply
48 Road Runner's call
50 Frizzy do
51 Tardy
52 Microbrewery output
53 Verse
54 Formerly, formerly
55 Big Apple letters

Crossword down

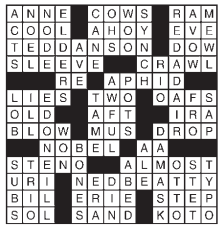
1 Benevolent herd?
2 Refuses to
3 Duel tool
4 Director Lumet
5 Perpendicular, at sea
6 Retainer
7 Clarify
8 Barroom set-to
9 Pirates' quaff
10 "— on a Grecian Urn"
11 Rune equivalent to a W
16 Grain disease
20 Cleo's slayer
23 Black, to Browning?
24 Therefore
25 Sit for a shot
26 Moby's pursuer
27 Trademark symbol
28 Aerobatic maneuver
29 Carton
32 Skilled
33 Ersatz chocolate
35 Teensy
36 Kidderminster, e.g.
38 — salts
39 Bumps into
42 Campus VIP
43 Slithery
44 Detail, for short
45 Upper limit
46 E.T.'s vessel
47 Before
49 Corn spike

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		9	5		2	3		
1		5				4	6	
				6	1			
				7	3	2		5
9								8
5		8	2	1				
			3	9				
	5	4				6		9
		7	4		5	8		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	4	1	5	6	3	2	7	9
2	6	5	9	7	4	1	8	3
9	7	3	8	1	2	6	5	4
1	8	2	3	9	6	5	4	7
5	9	7	4	8	1	3	2	6
6	3	4	7	2	5	9	1	8
3	2	6	1	4	7	8	9	5
7	1	9	6	5	8	4	3	2
4	5	8	2	3	9	7	6	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Mackerel with Dill Mayonnaise

INGREDIENTS:
A small bunch of fresh dill
1 1/2 lb (680 g) new potatoes
Salt
1 tsp (5 ml) mixed peppercorns
Oil for greasing
4 mackerel fillets, 6 oz (170 g) each
4 tbsp (60 ml) mayonnaise
4 tbsp (60 ml) natural Greek yogourt
1 tbsp (15 ml) capers

GARNISH:
1 lemon

METHOD:
1. Put kettle of water on to boil. Rinse and dry dill, remove fine fronds from stalks, and set both aside separately.
2. Scrub new potatoes and put into large saucepan with some salt and the dill stalks. Cover potatoes with boiling water from kettle, return to boil, and cook for 15–20 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, preheat grill to high. Crush peppercorns with mortar and pestle or rolling pin. Lightly oil grill rack, lay fillets on it, skin sides down, and sprinkle with peppercorns.
4. Grill fillets for 5 minutes, then turn over, reduce heat to medium, and grill for another 5 minutes, or until skins are blistered. Turn over once more and grill for a further 2 minutes.
5. While fish is cooking, blend mayonnaise and yogourt in a bowl. Chop dill fronds and capers, and mix in. Cut lemon into wedges and set aside.
6. When mackerel is cooked, sprinkle flesh sides with salt. Drain potatoes and remove dill stalks. Serve mackerel with potatoes, dill, mayonnaise and lemon wedges.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Concentrate on solving a confidentiality issue. Be kind to a worryingly inconsistent person. Accusations about excessive spending will disturb you.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Being protective will provoke an odd response. Someone's complaints will be irritating. Turning down a greedy relative gives you self-respect.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't thwart any plans to make money. A cantankerous guy leaves annoying messages. Things will fall into place at home.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Use good manners with an insatiable friend. Listening well takes care of a problem. An opportunity is discovered by mistake.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You'll be the winner of a battle with bureaucracy. A private rendezvous will be maddening. Take no notice of someone's feigned indifference.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Stand alone if you want to see the big picture. A hypocrite causes a misunderstanding. An intimidating person supports your ideas.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A gloomy guy is working out a solution. A careless observer reminds you of the past. A starving person's trustworthiness will shock you.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Meditate to understand a tedious caller. Don't take advantage of anyone. A manager can clear the air.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A persuasive guy inspires a spectacular argument. An older person will disturb your sleep. Hope arises for a daring action.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You can help a secretly sad woman. Don't buy new computer equipment yet. You'll face a standoff with an ailing person.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A word of encouragement will perk you right up. A friend will tell you anything at this point. The chance of a lifetime will be presented.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A futuristic vision is at stake. You'll inspire some good ideas. A man's back-stabbing words will be held up to ridicule.

This day in history

JAN. 9, 475: Byzantine Emperor Zeno is forced to flee his capital at Constantinople.
JAN. 9, 1349: The Jewish population of Basel, Switzerland, believed by the residents to be the cause of the ongoing bubonic plague, were rounded up and incinerated.
JAN. 9, 1431: Judges' investigations for the trial of Joan of Arc begin in Rouen, France, the seat of the English occupation government.
JAN. 9, 1799: British Prime Minister William Pitt introduces income tax to raise funds for the war against Napoleon.

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